

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figures 1-13 with the attached amended drawing sheets.

The drawing figures have been amended to have the features denoted in typeface. Figure 7 has been amended to bear the legend "Related Art".

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to not refer to the drawing figures. Substitute drawing figures have been provided.

Claims 17-23, 25, and 28-39 are pending in the application. Claim 24 has been canceled and its subject matter has been generally incorporated into claim 17 (see also claim 39). The claims have also been amended to improve their language and to not recite "preferred" subject matter. Claims 28-39 are newly presented and generally set forth subject matter cancelled from the previous claims and embodiments of the present invention shown in Figures 12 and 13.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

The Drawings

The drawings are objected to as containing hand drawn figure and label numbers. Substitute drawings have been provided in which the figure and label numbers are set forth in typeface.

Figure 7 is objected to as not bearing a suitable legend. Figure 7 has been amended to bear the legend "Related Art".

**Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 22 and 24 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

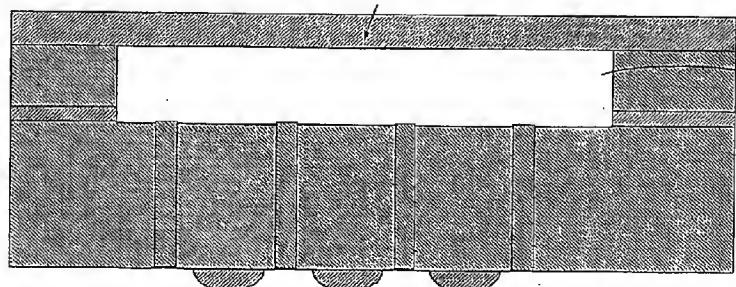
The Official Action asserts that the claims lack full antecedent basis. However, the claims have been amended to be clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Art Rejections**

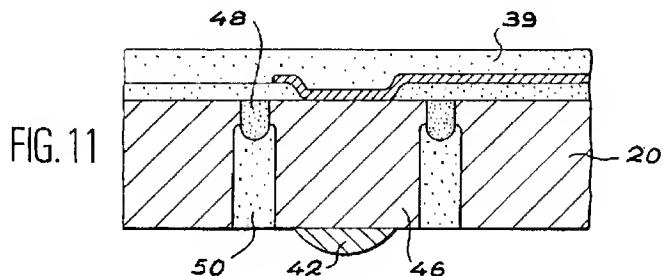
Claims 17-20 and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) or (b) as being separately anticipated by each of VIEUX-ROCHAZ et al., HONDA and ROBERT. Claims 22 and 25 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over VIEUX-ROCHAZ et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a product configured as a starting substrate for the manufacture of micro-electronic and/or micro-mechanic devices. The present invention is shown, by way of example, in Figure 13 of the application, part of which is reproduced below.



Independent claim 17 of the present invention sets forth "the wafer comprising one or more local depressions (75) in at least one surface thereof" and "the at least one electrically conductive member is essentially flush with a bottom surface of said one or more depressions."

In rejecting the claims, the Official Action refers to Figure 11 of VIEUX-ROCHAZ et al., which is reproduced below.



The disadvantages of technology associated with VIEUX-ROCHAZ et al. have been discussed in the specification at page 2, lines 1-14.

The Official Action asserts (or acknowledges) that HONDA teaches a configuration similar to VIEUX-ROCHAZ et al.

The Official Action asserts that Figures 1-14 of ROBERTS disclose a product usable as a starting substrate for the manufacture of micro-electronic devices. Figure 8 of ROBERTS is reproduced below.

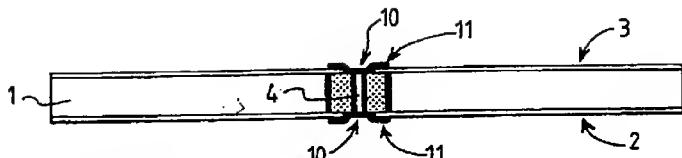


FIG.8

However, there is no teaching in the applied art references of making depressions with the through connections, as claimed in the present invention, with "the wafer comprising one or more local depressions (75) in at least one surface thereof" and "the at least one electrically conductive member is essentially flush with a bottom surface of said one or more depressions."

That is, the Official Action fails to point out where the references teach the embodiments of claim 24, now incorporated into claim 17 and set forth in claim 39.

It is also noted that there is no indication that the drawings of the applied art references are drawn to scale, and inferring a structural equality (i.e., being flush) from these drawing is therefore impermissible. When the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawing features are of little value. See *Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group Int'l*, 222 F.3d 951, 956, 55 USPQ2d 1487, 1491 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

As a result, each of the applied art references fails to anticipate independent claim 17 of the present invention. One of ordinary skill and creativity would also fail to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention from a knowledge of VIEUX-ROCHAZ et al., and a *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statements filed in the application and for making initialed PTO-1449 Forms of record.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The issuance of a Notice of Allowability is accordingly respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert E. Goozner/

Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593  
209 Madison Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

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**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a terminal disclaimer
- a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- Replacement Sheets for the drawing figures
- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- a verified English translation of foreign priority document